Complementary Low Altitude Weapon System (CLAWS)

Description

CLAWS will provide a rapidly deployable, mobile, high firepower, all-weather, standoff air defense system to defend Marine Expeditionary Forces and Naval Forces from attack by cruise missiles, fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, and UAVs. It shall complement existing Stinger-based short-range air defense (SHORAD) capabilities and will interface with current and proposed MACCS and Amphibious Task Force (ATF) sensors and data paths. CLAWS consists of a minimum of four Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) mounted on a Heavy High Mobility Multi-Wheel Vehicle (HMMWV), missile interface equipment, remote terminal unit(s), a geographical location positioning system, a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, SINCGARS radio(s), and an organic reloading device.

Operational Impact

Stinger/Avenger systems provide effective close-in low altitude air defense against threat aircraft. However, effective range is limited and they lack the capability to provide reliable air defense against the emerging threat posed by the proliferation of cruise missiles. CLAWS provides the speed and flexibility required for the execution of Operational Maneuver From the Sea (OMFTS). It will possess the mobility/lethality required to keep pace with supported maneuver elements to fill gaps in Naval Air Defense coverage created by extended littoral operations. It will complement Stinger/Avenger systems by prosecuting enemy cruise missiles and other air breathing targets beyond the capabilities/ranges of these systems.

Program Status

The Program Office received a Milestone B decision for CLAWS on 27 March 2001 and is subsequently proceeding with System Development and Demonstration activities. CLAWS has been assigned an Acquisition Category (ACAT) III designation. The Program Office awarded a System Development and Demonstration contract on 6 April 2001.

Procurement Profile	***FY02***	***FY03***
Quantity:	0	0

Developer/Manufacturer	Raytheon Electronics Systems Bedford, MA